

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Wildlife Without Borders - Africa
FY2016 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)**

Frequently Asked Questions

➤ **GENERAL QUESTIONS**

How do I apply to the Wildlife Without Borders-Africa program?

To apply, please see the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website: <http://www.fws.gov/international/pdf/notice-of-funding-availability-africa.pdf>. U.S. applicants must submit through www.grants.gov. International applicants must submit an application by email to wwb_africa@fws.gov.

What is the estimated total program funding?

The estimated total program funding is more than \$12 million USD.

Where does the funding come from?

Since 2007, USFWS has facilitated funding from the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) through an apportionment of funds by the U.S. Congress. As part of a whole-of-government approach, USFWS works with other federal agencies within the CARPE consortium to foster common understanding and approaches for solving critical conservation challenges in Central Africa.

What is the estimated funding for each project?

The amount of funding requested must match scope of the activities, the anticipated results, and the length of the project period.

How long do projects typically last?

Project periods range from 1-5 years.

What kinds of projects have been funded in the past?

To see a complete list of projects funded from FY2013 to FY2015 under the Wildlife Without Borders program, please see: <http://www.fws.gov/international/wildlife-without-borders/africa/>.

You are the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, but most grants in Central Africa seem to be about wildlife and not fish - why is that?

In Central Africa, USFWS employs different funding mechanisms for wildlife conservation. The Multinational Species Funds are species-specific and in Central Africa, only include African elephants, great apes and marine turtles. USFWS also facilitates two additional global funds: Amphibians in Decline and the Critically Endangered Animals Conservation Fund which have previously supported conservation in Central Africa. The Wildlife Without Borders - Africa program facilitates funding from the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) and has supported fisheries projects in the past. The WWB-Africa program is open to all proposals that are relevant to the funding priorities listed in the NOFO.

➤ **PROGRAM-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS**

Does USFWS provide any technical support to develop proposals?

USFWS recently published a document titled, "Standard Measures of Effectiveness and Threats for Wildlife Conservation in Central Africa" for applicants to enhance monitoring and evaluation. This document describes application questions and standard effectiveness measures for eight conservation actions most frequently funded by USFWS in Central Africa. This document has valuable information for applicants including: 1) a definition for conservation action, 2) a high-level theory of change, 3) enabling conditions, and 4) monitoring questions and indicators. USFWS encourages all applicants proposing conservation projects in Central Africa to use this guidance. Recipients of cooperative agreements are required to use this guidance. To view the guidance, please see: <http://www.fws.gov/international/pdf/guidance-effectiveness-measures-central-africa.pdf>

What is the geographic focus of the urban bushmeat funding priority?

All eligible countries as stated in the NOFO.

What is the estimated annual funding level for the urban bushmeat cooperative agreement funding mechanism?

Approximately \$200K - \$400K annually.

Could the urban bushmeat cooperative agreement funding mechanism be integrated into an existing cooperative agreement?

No, the urban bushmeat cooperative agreement would be a separate initiative.

What kind of training is supported via the Capacity Development opportunity?

Some examples of eligible capacity development programs include competency-based training on wildlife conservation and protected area management; strengthening or developing new academic programs; support for Central African university faculty to incorporate emerging conservation threats into their curriculum; or the development of species conservation networks. Support for tuition for individuals will not be considered. It might be helpful to view pg. 12-13 of the [Standard Measures of Effectiveness and Threats for Wildlife Conservation in Central Africa](#) for application questions and recommended indicators for this funding opportunity.

What kind of projects are eligible for MENTOR?

MENTOR programs develop trans-disciplinary teams of emerging African conservationists who work together to solve problem on key threats to wildlife in Central Africa. MENTOR proposals can focus on one or more of the following themes: 1) Poaching for ivory, 2) Commercial bushmeat trade, 3) Illegal fishing and ineffective marine conservation, 4) Wildlife disease, 5) Incompatible extractive industry practices (forestry, mining, oil, agriculture, or fisheries), 6) Limited political will for conservation, 7) Lack of effective conservation outreach and strategic communications, 8) Ineffective demand reduction initiatives, 9) Weak enforcement of wildlife law, 10) Wildlife trafficking, and 11) Lack of species conservation networks. Please see pgs. 6-7 of the NOFO for a complete description of the USFWS MENTOR Signature Initiative.

USFWS is doing an evaluation of SMART. Is USFWS still accepting proposals for SMART projects? Yes, USFWS has commissioned an evaluation of SMART and it's use by protected area management. Any initial findings from the evaluation may be incorporated into requests for revision. Guidance based on the evaluation's final results, however, are not anticipated until the next funding cycle.

What type of projects should apply for a two year wildlife security project?

Please see pages 3-5 of the NOFO for a complete description of the wildlife security funding opportunity.

What do I need to know if I apply for a project in transit countries?

Proposals for work outside Central Africa must justify the proposed intervention in terms of its potential impact on wildlife populations in Central Africa, including evidence of the proposed location as an important transit point for wildlife products coming out of Central Africa en route to consumer countries. The proposal needs to provide a compelling argument that products being transited are from Central African wildlife.

Are fish farming and other livelihood projects eligible for funding?

Livelihood projects are only eligible if they directly apply to the funding opportunities outlined in the NOFO.

➤ APPLICATION SUBMISSION QUESTIONS

When will applicants be notified if their proposal is selected for funding?

Following review, applicants may be requested to revise the project scope and/or budget before an award is made. Successful applicants will receive written notice in the form of a notice of award document. Notices of award are sent to recipients by e-mail. If e-mail notification is unsuccessful, the documents will be sent by courier mail (e.g., FedEx, DHL or UPS). Applicants whose projects are not selected for funding will receive written notice, most often by email, no later than September 30, 2016.

If USFWS chooses to fund a proposal, can the applicant charge costs before the grant is awarded?

With prior approval, applicants can incur pre-award costs up to 90 days before the award period of performance start date. Costs are incurred at the applicant's risk. Please see the Assistance Award Guidelines for more information: <http://www.fws.gov/international/pdf/assistance-award-guidelines.pdf>.

Can a project apply for funding if it has USAID funding?

Yes. However, the applicant cannot use any other U.S. government funds as matching funds on their application.

What is Leahy Vetting?

The Leahy Vetting requirement is included annually in the Foreign Assistance Appropriations Act. The Leahy Amendment prohibits assistance to individuals with human rights abuse records. It requires that military and civilian security force individuals or units receiving US Government assistance be screened for any record of human rights abuse. Conservation efforts authorized by the Foreign Assistance Act often require work with and/or support to law enforcement personnel including park rangers, police, customs officials, or any other “foreign security forces” (anyone with authority to detain, confiscate, arrest, and/or use force). Training is the most frequently cited example of assistance, but any provision of materials or equipment must be vetted. If security forces are involved in any project activities, please explain in detail the specific resources that will be used to support these forces and whether the project participants are a unit (i.e. rangers from protected areas) or a group of individuals. If your proposal is selected for funding, a USFWS Program Officer will contact you with further instructions.

What should I do if I am having trouble submitting through grants.gov?

If you are having problems submitting an application through grants.gov, please visit <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support.html> for grants.gov support. If you are unable to obtain support through grants.gov, please email wwb_africa@fws.gov and USFWS will try to assist you. U.S. applicants can only submit through wwb_africa@fws.gov if they have received prior approval from USFWS staff.

Does it cost anything to register in DUNS (Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Number System) or SAM (System for Award Management)?

Registering in DUNS and SAM is free. Do not pay for a DUNS or SAM number.

Do applicants need to be registered in DUNS and SAM by January 15, 2016?

U.S. applicants must have a DUNS and be registered in DUNS and SAM in order to submit an application through www.grants.gov and applications are due by January 15, 2016. International applicants must be registered in DUNS by the time they apply and in SAM by August 1, 2016 in order to receive funds.

What makes a cooperative agreement different from a grant?

Under cooperative agreements, substantial involvement by USFWS should be expected and may include participating and collaborating jointly with the recipient or other personnel in carrying out the scope of work including: training recipient personnel or detailing Federal personnel to work on the project effort; reviews and approves one stage of work before the next stage can begin; reviews and approves proposed modifications or sub-awards, prior to the award; helps select project staff or trainees; directs or redirects the work because of interrelationships with other projects; has power to immediately halt an activity if detailed performance specifications are not met; and limits recipient discretion with respect to scope of work, organizational structure, staffing, mode of operations and other management processes, coupled with close monitoring or operational involvement during performance under the award.

If selected for funding, how often do recipients have to submit reports?

USFWS will specify in the notice of award document the reporting and reporting frequency applicable to the award. Interim financial reports and performance reports may be required. Interim reports will be required no more frequently than quarterly, and no less frequently than annually. A final financial report and a final performance report will be required and are due within 90 calendar days of the end date of the award. Performance reports must contain: 1) a comparison of actual accomplishments with the goals and objectives of the award as detailed in the approved scope of work; 2) a description of reasons why established goals were not met, if appropriate; and 3) any other pertinent information relevant to the project results.

If applying for a multi-year cooperative agreement, does the applicant need to have workplans for each year?

No. Proposals for cooperative agreements only need to have a workplan for the first year. Work plans are required each year for active cooperative agreements and continued funding is based on successful performance and submission of an annual workplan.

Should applicants apply to the Wildlife Without Borders-Africa (WWB-Africa) program or to one of the Multinational Species Funds?

USFWS supports wildlife conservation projects in Central Africa through multiple mechanisms: the [Wildlife Without Borders Africa \(WWB-Africa\) Program](#), and the funds created by Congressional acts for the conservation of [African elephants](#), [great apes](#) and [marine turtles](#). In general, applicants are encouraged to submit a proposal to WWB-Africa if their project falls under one of the six funding priorities listed in the WWB-Africa Program NOFO.

Does USFWS move proposals between the Multinational Species Funds and WWB Africa?

In order to maximize funding opportunities, USFWS staff may move proposals between the WWB-Africa Program and the Species Funds.